

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 SAM-01 /053 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1266

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BOMBAY IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALUCTTA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MADRAS IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 12601

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: REPORTED PRESIDENTIAL CRITICISM OF THE EMERGENCY

1. TWO NEW DELHI DAILIES, THE INDIAN EXPRESS AND TIMES OF INDIA, CARRY FRONTPAGE STORIES THIS MORNING, SEPT 18, REPORTING PRESIDENT FORD SAID ON SEPT 14 THAT WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN INDIA "IS A VERY SAD DEVELOPMENT." THE MADRAS HINDU CARRIED THE SAME STORY ON SEP 18.

2. FULL TEXT OF EXPRESS STORY DATELINED WASHINGTON, SEP 17, BY T.V. PARASURAM FOLLOWS:

QTE: PRESIDENT FORD HAS EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN INDIA 'IS A VERY SAD DEVELOPMENT' AND ALSO THE HOPE THAT IN TIME THERE COULD BE A

RESTORATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES 'AS WE KNOW THEM IN THE UNITED STATES.'

QTE: ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL TEXT OF HIS STATE-
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MENT DISTRIBUTED YESTERDAY, HE WAS ASKED: 'WHAT DO YOU

THINK ABOUT WHAT MRS INDIRA GANDHI HAS DONE? HERE SHE WAS ... THE WORLD'S BIGGEST DEMOCRACY AND SHE OBVIOUSLY HAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT NOW.'

QTE: PRESIDENT FORD: I THINK THAT IS REALLY VERY SAD BUT 600 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE LOST WHAT THEY HAD HAD SINCE THE MID-1940'S, AS I RECALL, AND I THINK IT IS A VERY SAD DEVELOPMENT AND I HOPE THAT IN TIME THERE COULD BE A RESTORATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES AS WE KNOW THEM IN THE UNITED STATES.

QTE: QUESTION: BUT THIS WOULDN'T BE A TIME FOR A VISIT (TO INDIA)?

QTE: PRESIDENT FORD: WE HAVE A VERY FULL PLATE BETWEEN NOW AND JANUARY 1.

QTE: MR FORD MADE THESE REMARKS AT A NEWS INTERVIEW ON SUNDAY AT HIS OVAL OFFICE IN THE WHITE HOUSE. IN ADDITION TO CHARLES BARTLETT, A COLUMNIST OF CHICAGO SUN AND TIMES, THERE WERE TWO OTHER CORRESPONDENTS -- TOM ROSS AND MORT KONDRACKE. UNQUOTE.

3. WE HAVE REQUESTED THE "OFFICIAL" TEXT VIA USINFO CHANNEL.

4. PENDING PRESS GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT, WE PLAN TO SAY, IF ASKED, WE HAVE SEEN NO OFFICIAL TEXT OF THE REPORTED REMARKS.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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